

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0069] with the following amended paragraph:

[0069] As best shown in FIGURES 3 and 4, the threaded portion 105 has a substantially rectangular cross section, including two relatively flat sides and two sides having threaded sections. The apertures 91 and 120 may have a shape that is relatively complimentary to the shape of the threaded portion 105. For example, the receiving apertures 91, 120 may have a substantially rectangular shape to thereby prevent rotation of the threaded portion 105 when adjusting the nuts 110. [[This.]] Although not shown, the end of the threaded portion 105 may also include an element, e. g. , a member with a rectangular aperture, to help prevent rotation of the threaded portion 105.

Please replace paragraph [0078] with the following amended paragraph:

[0078] FIGURES 5C-5H illustrate yet another embodiment of the present invention in which an adjustment mechanism allows coarse and fine adjustment of the head strap tension. FIGURE 5C shows the overall mask assembly, including a mask frame 800 and which is provided with an elbow 805 including an anti-asphyxia valve 810. A quick release clamp 815 is provided to allow the patient to quickly remove the headgear, as described in U. S. ~~patent application no.~~ 10/235,846, filed September 6, 2002 Patent 6,823,869, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. FIGURE 5D shows the quick release mechanism in a partially opened position, while FIGURE 5E shows the quick release mechanism fully opened.

Please replace paragraph [00130] with the following amended paragraph:

[00130] The body portion 422 of the mask body assembly 418 supports the elbow ~~[[430]]~~ 429, anti-asphyxia valve, and vent. It permits relatively free distortion or bending of the mask body assembly 418 relative to the frame 436 of the mask assembly 412, and also acts as a locating and constraining mechanism to prevent the frame 436 from sliding out of place. The mask body assembly 418 is shown in the plan view of FIGURE 33A and in cross-section in FIGURE 33B. In one preferred form, the body portion 422 is silicone, is co-molded with the face-contacting portion 420, and is contiguous with the face-contacting portion ~~[[422]]~~ 420.

Please replace paragraph [00134] with the following amended paragraph:

[00134] The frame 436, which is shown in isolation in the view of FIGURE 32, includes a forked bracket 444 mounted on each side portion 440. Each bracket 444 is constructed of aluminum or another substantially rigid material. There are a series of holes 446 along the length of the side portions 440 which are adapted to receive a bolt to thereby secure the bracket 444. The angle of the bracket 444 with respect to the side portion 440 is adjustable by loosening the bolt, adjusting the angle, and tightening the bolt. The position of the bracket 444 along the side portion can be adjusted by securing within a different hole. Both brackets 444 need not be mounted in the same relative position along the side portions 440. In this way, some allowance can be made for any asymmetry in a patient's face. One bracket 444 is secured to each side portion. The bracket 444 is adapted to receive and engage the nut ~~[[448]]~~ 468 of the threaded arm 450 of the headgear 414.

Please replace paragraph [00198] with the following amended paragraph:

[00198] Alternatively or in addition, the frame 600 may include one or more lines of weakness 630, e. g. , a hinge such as a living hinge, built in to top and/or bottom portions of the frame 600. The lines of weakness [[600]] 630 will allow the frame 600 to more easily move about the axis A.

Please replace paragraph [00253] with the following amended paragraph:

[00253] In some of the examples described above, the cushion may be provided to the frame using adhesives. In another embodiment shown in FIGURE 80, the cushion may be provided to the frame using a mechanical fastener. In the example of FIGURE 80, a mask assembly 900 includes a body portion 902 and a cushion 904 provided to the body portion 902. The cushion 904 may include a neoprene cushion 906 covered with a continuous ~~silicon~~ silicone membrane 908, for example. A flexible portion 910 may be provided along the perimeter of the body portion 902, for reasons described above. The body portion 902 and the membrane 908 may be formed of a single piece in this example. The membrane 908 includes an inner perimeter shoulder 912 and an outer perimeter shoulder 914 to engage a surface 916 of the flexible frame 910. The outer perimeter shoulder 914 may wrap around the edge of the flexible frame 910. Alternatively, the outer perimeter shoulder may be said to include a groove to accommodate the outer edge of the flexible frame 910. Similarly, the inner peripheral shoulder may include a groove to accommodate the inner perimeter of the flexible frame 910. Stated differently, the member 908 "snaps on" to the edges of the frame 910.